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ABSTRACT

Rockland Community College (RCC) sent questionnaires to all 694 veterans enrolled at the college in the fall 1975 semester; 581 (83.7 percent) responded. Results indicated that the average veteran enrolled at RCC is 35.9 years old, takes 10.5 credits per semester, and has earned 19.1 credits to date. Additional findings show that: (1) over 95 percent of the respondents are married and have an average of 3.7 children; (2) over 89 percent work, of whom 97 percent work at least 35 hours per week; (3) the majority of the veterans chose their majors from three areas--Criminal Justice, Business, and Liberal Arts; (4) 46 percent attend evening classes exclusively, whereas 32.3 percent attend both day and evening classes; (5) some veterans receive additional financial assistance from other sources; and (6) over 41 percent are uncertain whether or not they will continue their studies after their VA benefits expire and 9.2 percent definitely will not continue when this happens. (DC)

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VETERAN SURVEY

ENROLLMENT OF FALL 1975

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76-B

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JC 760 179

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VETERANS SURVEY

The Veterans registered at Rockland Community College for Fall 1975 was the group surveyed in this Report.

The mailings were made as follows:

	Date	# Mailed	# Returned	% Returned
1st Mailing	12/11/76	694	330	47.55
2nd Mailing	1/09/76	389	206	52.96
3rd Mailing	2/09/76	115	55	47.83
Total			581 *	

* Out of a mailing list of 694 people, the total number of surveys returned was 581, giving a return percentage of 83.72.

The high rate of return probably reflects the inherent interest of the Veterans in his moneyed entitlement.

Totals for various Tables will vary according to responses made by individuals.

VETERANS SURVEY

The high proponderance of male student Veterans is shown in Table I. A total of 575 males and only four females.

TABLE I

SEX

	#	%
Male	575	99.31
Female	4	.69
TOTAL	579	100.00

The type of attendance of the Veteran (see Table II is heavily weighted toward evening courses (46.01%) with roughly one out of five Veterans attending in the day session. The data on the Veterans who attended in a combined pattern (both day and evening courses) is the percentage (32.29) that shows a somewhat non-traditional pattern.

TABLE II

ATTENDANCE PATTERN

	#	%
Evening	265	46.01
Combined	186	32.29
Day	125	21.70
TOTAL	576	100.00

The Veterans average workload (see Table III) is 10.49 credits, with 259 out of 437 taking ten to twelve credits. We find that 87 Veterans registered for six credits or less with the remaining 350 taking ten credits or more.

TABLE III

CREDITS TAKEN THIS SEMESTER

	#	%
22 and over	3	.69
19-21	-	-
16-18	6	1.87
13-15	82	18.76
10-12	259	59.27
7-9	-	-
4-6	81	18.54
0-3	6	1.37
TOTAL	437	100.00

Average Number of Credits Taken this Semester is 10.49

The average credits earned to date (see Table IV) by the Veterans were 19.1. This would indicate that the average Veterans is a long way from the credits necessary for a degree. If we extrapolate, using the 10.49 average credit load, we would expect the average veteran to finish his degree requirement in four more semesters. This is a combination of the credits earned to date, 19.1 and the average credit load of 10.49. In terms of this College, we would see the average Veteran leaving Rockland Community College at the end of the fall 1977 semester. In terms of numbers we would have lost between 218 and 219 Veterans.

TABLE IV

CREDITS EARNED UP TO FALL 1975

	#	%
97 and over	2	.36
85-96	14	2.50
73-84	17	3.04
61-72	34	6.07
49-60	68	12.14
37-48	85	15.18
25-36	86	15.36
13-24	95	16.96
0-12	159	28.39
TOTAL	560	100.00

Average Number of Credits Earned Up To Fall 1975 is 19.14

The majority of Veterans (471 out of 562 responding) chose their major (see Table V) from three areas; Criminal Justice (192), Business (153), and Liberal Arts (126). A total of 82.92 percent.

TABLE V

WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR? *

	#	%
Criminal Justice	192	33.80
Business	153	26.94
Liberal Arts	126	22.18
Human Services	25	4.40
Fire Technology	16	2.85
Engineering	10	1.76
Electrical Technology	9	1.60
Nursing	8	1.41
College A	7	1.25
Graphic Arts	3	.53
Data Processing	3	.53
Humanities	2	.36
Social Sciences	2	.36
Psychology-Sociology Research	1	.18
Computer Sciences	1	.18
Microbiology	1	.18
Chemistry	1	.18
Psychology	1	.18
General	1	.18
TOTAL	562	100.00

* - The categories listed do not totally match the response categories on the questionnaire or the curriculum categories of RCC; but they represent what the Veteran respondant believes is pertinent.

Over 89 percent of the Veterans work (see Table VI) with over 97 percent of them working 35 hours or more (see Table VII) giving us a picture of a hard-working individual taking over 10 credits as well.

TABLE VI

ARE YOU WORKING?

	#	%
Yes	519	89.48
No	61	10.52
TOTAL	580	100.00

The fact that only a little over 10 percent are not working would seem to indicate that Veterans benefits are not adequate to help a Veteran go to school full time.

TABLE VII

IF SO, HOW MANY HOURS/WEEK?

	#	%
35 or more	511	97.71
20-34	6	1.15
10-19	3	.57
0-9	3	.57
TOTAL	523	100.00

In Table VIII we find that some Veterans report receiving other funds in order to support their attendance at Rockland Community College.

TABLE VIII

CATEGORY OF FINANCIAL AID

	#	%
LEEP	84	54.19
TAP	66	42.58
Private Grants	3	1.93
EOP	1	.65
REGENTS	1	.65
TOTAL	155	100.00

Perhaps the data in Tables IX and XI have some bearing on the responses in Table XIII. We find over 95 percent are married and have an average of over 3.7 children; when we compare this to the current rate of 1.80 birthrate, we have the Veteran with twice as many children.

TABLE IX

ARE YOU MARRIED?

	#	%
Yes	556	95.86
No	24	4.14
TOTAL	580	100.00

The average age (see Table X) of the Rockland Community College veteran is 35.9; when compared to the age of the Rockland Community College student (26.3) we have a Veteran on the average of ten years older than the general student.

TABLE X

AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY

	#	%
65 and over	1	.17
55-59	1	.17
50-54	2	.35
45-49	12	2.07
40-44	112	19.31
35-39	231	39.83
30-34	177	30.52
25-29	35	6.03
20-24	9	1.55
19 and under	0	0.00
TOTAL	580	100.00

TABLE XI

DO YOU HAVE ANY DEPENDENTS?

	#	%
7+	27	4.66
6	51	8.81
5	91	15.72
4	160	27.63
3	148	25.56
2	56	9.67
1	18	3.11
0	28	4.84
TOTAL	579	100.00

One of the most interesting pieces of data is contained in Table XII. Of all the respondants, only eight indicate plans to transfer to another school. Combining this with data from Tabe XIII, we find that 241 are uncertain and 53 will not continue at Rockland Community College when their benefits expire for a total of 294 or slightly over 50 percent who have not indicated positive attitudes toward continuing their college work if their benefits were out before securing a degree.

TABLE XII

PLANS FOR SPRING 1976 SEMESTER

	#	%
Continue at RCC	517	87.04
Not Certain	42	7.07
Will Not Continue at RCC	23	3.87
Transfer to another school	8	1.35
Employment	4	.67
TOTAL	12 594	100.00

If we examine the Veterans future plans (see Table XIII), we find that those who are uncertain about future attendance are over 41 percent of the respondants. Comparing this with the group who will not continue when their benefits cease (9.15%) we have slightly over 50 percent questionable returnability.

TABLE XIII

PLANS WHEN VA BENEFITS EXPIRE

	#	%
Not Certain	241	41.62
Continue at RCC	184	31.78
Graduate from RCC	95	16.42
Will Not Continue at RCC	53	9.15
Seeking other benefits to continue	4	.69
Attend Summer sessions	1	.17
Empire State Program	1	.17
TOTAL	579	100.00

COMMENTS SECTION

The comments are included exactly as the Veterans wrote them.

VETERAN'S SURVEY

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. My wife will be taking a nursing course, she may be interested in financial aid of some kind.

2. There should be a joint effort by all vets to petition the govt. to extend the benefits. A vet should be able to use his educational benefits. As long as his entitlement without a time limit. Why should we be penalized for not using up our benefits in the time allotted when most of us didn't have the opportunity to attend college prior to the institution of day and night classes????

3. I am a disabled vet and I plan to continue my education on a disabled plan which the government has.

4. The vets program was not a well known program until recently. I just took advantage recently because I just found out about this benefit. I would like to see this extended through Congressional pressure, for this would be the only way over 1000 students (rcc) would be able to get a good education. These VA members gave their time to the goverment, so why can't the government give a little more of theirs' ....Thank you

5. My discharge was in 11-68. My educational benefits do not expire till June 1978. Possibly your records are of another William Callahan. Please feel free to check with Mark Skolnik at VA Office.'

6. I plan to continue at RCC until I receive my ad in the Fire Tech, program. I will have 7½ months of VA benefits left when they expire on 5-31-76. I would like to know if there is any chance of an extension of the benefits.

7. I am now living on a fixed income, granted to me, for a job incurred physical disability. If I can find the $300.00 per semester to continue my studies at RCC, I would at least like to acquire my associates degree.

8. I will continue my education and try to achieve a BS some other NY College that grants degrees in Science.

9. I would like to see RCC become a 4 year school.

10. My benefits do not expire in June '76 - the recent letter form from VA states 4-29-78, please verify this and reinform me if it is an error. I was discharged from service 5-8-68.

11. Have been using VA benefits to supplement my income as well as further my education. Only sorry I did not avail myself to them sooner.as I have years of eligibility left. If the VA benefits were extended I would love to further my studies at RCC to graduation with an AD and go on further from there. However, inflation being what it is, if benefits end, I must forgo my education and look elsewhere, to supplement my income and support my family.

12. Iwould like some information about a scholarship. My VA benefits run out in May.

13. I am interested in the TAP and would like you to send me an application blank at your earliest convenience.

VETERAN'S SURVEY - GENERAL COMMENTS (con't)

14. The only suggestion or consideration I would appreciate looked at for the future is: I am planning to change my major of study in the Spring '76 to work towards a BD in Business Administration. I realize it is an expense to the college but I don't understand why a person who is working in any job where there is a shift work should have his studies limited. My point is that the courses that are needed for Bus. are only given day or evening and this means at least one week a month I would miss classes. I realize that the cost is the major issue, especially in today's times but I believe a survey should be done and if enough people are interested, it could be done. I chose Bus. Management and Administration are needed especially in todays Criminal Justice Systems. I will have enough credits to graduate in January but I am going to continue and try and get some credits in administration. I hope to see RCC a 4 year college someday, I give my recommendation whenever asked.

15. Had I known about VA benefits several years ago, Iwould have started sooner. Once VA benefits stop, Iwill have to return to part time employment in the evening.

16. I hope to graduate in May '76 if the English Department lets me take 3 English courses together. If I am not allowed to take these I won't be able to finish this year for I have quite a number of bills and can't afford to pay for my tuition.

17. I must admit when I first started to attend RCC my main reason was to collect my VA benefits. After attending both summer sessions and the past winter session I am looking forward to the spring semester. Ihave not enjoyed my classes, but also I feel I have expanded my mind and therfore benefitted a great deal. I sincerely hope it will be financially possible for me to continue at RCC after my Veterans benefits expire in May 1976. I personally would recommend your extensive studies program to anyone seeking advice.

18. This semester I will have completed my degree requirements and exhausted my veterans benefits.

19. My VA benefits do not expire until 1981!

20. I did not enroll for any courses and I am not receiving benefits. Kindly remove my name from your mailing list.

21. Please note: I am a practicing dentist in Nanuet who decided to take a course in psychology as a diversion. If you feel you need more info Iwill be pleased to help.

22. As of present, Iam an unemployed construction worker. I am hoping to continue my education until I am successful in getting my degree. However; without the continuing VA benefits it will be extremely difficult to do so. If it is at all possible to influence the congress to continue these so badly needed benefits I would like to do my share. Please advise me as to how I May help.

23. As of the present time, as I am not working and my VA benefits end

in June 1976, I am not sure if I will be able to attend after June. However, I would certainly like to continue my studies.

24. This is the first questionnaire I have received from you, I would like you to know I really appreciate your interest inthe veteran's educational benefits. As I have answered in Question #13 I am not certain of my plans to continue my education after June '76 because of my VA checks stopping.

25. My benefits do not expire until September of 1978...!!!!

26. I will probably continue at RCC taking 3-6 credit hours depending on my financial position at the time of enrollment.

27. I've really enjoyed attending RCC over the past years. It has been quite an experience for me, as we;; as educational. However, I have had several problems to interfere with getting the most out of my subjects, to do working, and family responsibilities. I do hope to continue, and perhaps obtain my degree.

28. It will be financially impossible for me to remain in school after my VA benefits expire.

29. I believe my VA benefits expire June'77. I was separated from active duty 6-26-67

30. Will continue if assistance were available.

31. I intend to continue my education toward a BA degree, at what college I haven't decided as yet. If there are any financial aid programs available to assist me, I would appreciate any info you could supply to me, as you are aware my VA benefits expire 5-30-76.

32. I already have an AAS inBusiness and after this Spring Semester I will get a Liberal Arts Degree. I had planned to go to Dominican College in Blauvelt but I cannot afford to go. I would have liked to get my Bachelors Degree.

33. Without VA benefits, to continue will definitly present financial hardship.

34. At the end of this spring semester I will have 57 credits. This will be 3 credits short of my associate degree. Would a letter to the VA give me a possible extension on obtaining my associate degree, getting the 3 credits over the summer session?

35. You people are doing a great job, keep up the good work!!!!!

36. I just want to say that I appreciate all that you and your staff have done. You have all been a great help. Thanks.

37. At the end of Spring '76 session I will have 54 credits. I plan to go to RCC for the Fall '76 term and get my degree. Without my VA

benefits I would not have been able to swing the money to go to school.

38. I am under the impression that RCC is one of the finer institutions of learning around today. From feedback received from other students who have attended other schools it is felt that through overall evaluation, RCC shines well above the others.. While I am sure there are many roadblocks I would really like to see RCC become a 4 year institution.

39. I am interested to find out if I can get an extension on my VA benefits to assist me in acquiring a BA in Criminal Justice.

40. I have filled out the enclosed questionnaire. I think there is a discrepancy, my VA benefits do not expire until 1979. Thomas Olive.

41. Benefits ended before 1976.

42. Benefits will continue

43. My benefits will continue

44. My benefits won't expire yet

45. Benefits are going to continue.

APPENDEX A

LABEL

Change of Address

Street City

County Zip Code

1. Sex
   (1-a)_____Male (1-b)_____Female

2. Do you attend
   (2-a)_____Day (2-b)_____Evening (2-c)_____Day and evening combined

3. How many credits are you taking?
   (3-a)____0-3 (3-b)____4-6 (3-c)____7-9 (3-d)____10-12 (3-e)____13-15
   (3-f)____16-18 (3-g)____19-21 (3-h)_____22+

4. How many credits have you earned at the end of the 1975 Summer Session? (do not include this semester):
   (4-a)____0-12 (4-b)____13-24 (4-c)_____25-36 (4-d)____37-48
   (4-e)____49-60 (4-f)____61-72 (4-g)_____73-84 (4-h)____85-96
   (4-i)____97+

5. What is your major?
   (5-a)_____Liberal Arts and Science
   (5-b)_____Business and Accounting
   (5-c)_____Secretarial
   (5-d)_____Nursing
   (5-e)_____Graphic Arts
   (5-f)_____Engineering Science
   (5-g)_____Industrial Laboratory Technology
   (5-h)_____Human Services
   (5-i)_____Criminal Justice
   (5-j)_____Other(please specify)

6. Are you currently working?
   (6-a)____Yes (6-b)_____No

7. If yes, how many hours a week?
   (7-a)____(full time)35 hrs. or more (7-b)_____20-34
   (7-c)____10-19 (7-d)____0-9

8. Please check each category of financial aid you are receiving
   (8-a)____EOF (8-b)____BEOG (8-c)____LEEP (8-d)____TAP
   (8-e)____Regents Scholarship (8-f)____College Work Study
   (8-g)____Private Grant_____
   Please specify

9. Are you Married?
   (9-a)____Yes (9-b)_____No

10. What was your age at your last birthday?

(10-a)____19 and under	(10-b)____20-24	(10-c)____25-29
(10-d)____30-34	(10-e)____35-39	(10-f)____40-44
(10-g)____45-49	(10-h)____50-54	(10-i)____55-59
(10-j)____60-64	(10-k)____65 and over	

11. How many dependents do you have (if any) ?

(11-a)____0	(11-b)____1	(11-c)____2	(11-d)____3
(11-e)____4	(11-f)____5	(11-g)____6	(11-h)____7+

12. What are your plans for the Spring 1976 semester?

(12-a)____Will continue at RCC

(12-b)_____Do not plan to continue at RCC

What are your plans?_____

(12-c)_____Not certain

13. When your VA benefits expire in June 1976, what are your plans?

(13-a)_____ will graduate from RCC

(13-b)_____will continue at RCC

(13-c)_____will not continue at RCC

(13-d)_____not certain of my plans

NOTE: Whether or not you plan to continue at RCC when your VA Benefits expire, you are urged to review all financial aid programs. You may be eligible for one of the financial aid programs in addition to VA Benefits. A brochure is enclosed for your information.

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LOS ANGELES

APR 16 1976

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